AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 37-47 and 54-62, amend claims 1, 8, 12, 23-24, 48 and 51, and add new claims 63 and 64. Claims 7 and 9 were cancelled in a previous paper. No new matter is believed to be introduced as a result of the foregoing amendments and new claims.

1. **(Currently Amended)** An optical device, comprising:

a first fiber coupling optically coupled to a fiber, wherein the fiber is configured to propagate a beam of light;

a core section that includes:

a beam splitter/combiner optically coupled to the first fiber coupling, wherein the beam splitter/combiner is configured to split the beam of light into a first component of light and a second component of light having different polarization states or to combine the first component of light and the second component of light into the beam of light; and

an isolator optically coupled to the beam splitter/combiner, the isolator and beam splitter/combiner being disposed adjacent to each other; and

a second fiber coupling optically coupled to the isolator and optically coupled to a first additional fiber and a second additional fiber, wherein the first additional fiber is configured to propagate the first component of light and the second additional fiber is configured to propagate the second component of light.

2. **(Original)** The optical device of claim 1, wherein the first fiber coupling comprises at least one lens.

3. **(Original)** The optical device of claim 1, wherein the fiber comprises an end having an optically polished surface.

4. **(Original)** The optical device of claim 1, wherein the fiber comprises an end having an optically polished surface angled to an optical axis of the fiber.

5. **(Original)** The optical device of claim 1, wherein the fiber comprises an end having an AR coating.

6. **(Original)** The optical device of claim 1, wherein the first fiber coupling comprises at least one lens, and wherein the at least one lens is configured to collimate the beam of light propagating from the fiber or focus the beam of light propagating to the fiber.

7. **(Canceled)**

8. **(Currently amended)** The optical device of claim 1, wherein the beam splitter/combiner comprises ~~one of a Wollaston, Nicol and Rochon~~ a prism.

9. **(Canceled)**

10. **(Original)** The optical device of claim 1, wherein the beam splitter/combiner comprises two optical wedges, and wherein the optical axes of the two optical wedges are about 90° away from each other.

11. **(Original)** The optical device of claim 1, wherein the first and second components of light comprise substantially different polarization directions.

12. **(Currently amended)** The optical device of claim 1, wherein the first and second[[s]] components of light comprise substantially perpendicular polarization directions.

13. **(Original)** The optical device of claim 1, wherein the isolator comprises a Faraday isolator.

14. **(Original)** The optical device of claim 1, wherein the isolator is configured to inhibit optical feedback.

15. **(Original)** The optical device of claim 1, wherein the isolator is configured to inhibit optical feedback to either the first fiber coupling or the second fiber coupling depending on a use of the optical device.

16. **(Original)** The optical device of claim 1, wherein the isolator is configured to inhibit optical feedback to the first fiber coupling when the optical device is configured to be used as a beam splitter.

17. **(Original)** The optical device of claim 1, wherein the isolator is configured to inhibit optical feedback to the second fiber coupling when the optical device is configured to be used as a beam combiner.

18. **(Original)** The optical device of claim 1, wherein an isolation direction of the isolator is switched to inhibit optical feedback to either the first fiber coupling or the second fiber coupling.

19. **(Original)** The optical device of claim 1, wherein the isolator comprises a Faraday rotator, and wherein an isolation direction of the Faraday rotator can be switched mechanically.

20. **(Original)** The optical device of claim 1, wherein the isolator comprises a Faraday rotator, and wherein an isolation direction of the Faraday rotator can be switched electrically.

21. **(Original)** The optical device of claim 1, wherein the isolator is configured to provide about 30 dB optical isolation.

22. **(Original)** The optical device of claim 1, wherein the second fiber coupling is configured to focus the first and second components of light propagating into the first additional and second additional fibers, respectively, or to collimate the first and second components of light propagating from the first additional and second additional fibers, respectively.

23. **(Currently amended)** The optical device of claim 1, wherein the second fiber coupling comprises a [[single]] lens.

24. **(Currently amended)** The optical device of claim 1, ~~wherein the second fiber coupling comprises at least one lens for each component of light~~ further comprising a ferrule within which the first and second fiber couplings and core section are substantially disposed.

25. **(Original)** The optical device of claim 1, wherein the first additional and second additional fibers comprise single mode fibers.

26. **(Original)** The optical device of claim 1, wherein the first additional and second additional fibers comprise multimode fibers.

27. **(Original)** The optical device of claim 1, wherein the first additional and second additional fibers comprise PM fibers.

28. **(Original)** The optical device of claim 1, wherein the first additional and second additional fibers comprise ends having optically polished surfaces.

29. **(Original)** The optical device of claim 1, wherein the first additional and second additional fibers comprise ends having optically polished surfaces angled to optical axes of the fibers.

30. **(Original)** The optical device of claim 1, wherein the first additional and second additional fibers comprise ends having AR coatings.

31. **(Original)** The optical device of claim 1, wherein the optical device is configured to be used as a beam splitter.

32. **(Original)** The optical device of claim 1, wherein the optical device is configured to be used as a beam combiner.

33. **(Original)** The optical device of claim 1, wherein the optical device is used as a passive device.

34. **(Original)** The optical device of claim 1, wherein the optical device is coupled to a laser.

35. **(Original)** The optical device of claim 1, wherein the optical device is used in an amplifier.

36. **(Original)** The optical device of claim 1, wherein the optical device is used in an optical network.

37. - 47. **(Canceled)**

48. **(Currently Amended)** An optical beam splitting device, comprising:

a first fiber coupling configured to hold a first lens and at least one fiber in a predetermined arrangement with respect to each other, the first lens being optically coupled to the at least one fiber, wherein the at least one fiber is configured to propagate at least one beam of light;

a beam splitter optically coupled to the first fiber coupling, wherein the beam splitter is configured to split the at least one beam of light into at least two components of light having different polarization states;

~~an isolator optically coupled to the beam splitter; and~~

a second fiber coupling configured to hold a second lens and at least two additional fibers in a predetermined arrangement with respect to each other, the second lens being optically coupled to the ~~isolator~~ beam splitter and optically coupled to the at least two additional fibers, wherein each of the at least two additional fibers is configured to propagate at least one of the at least two components of light; and

an isolator optically coupled to the beam splitter, wherein the isolator is disposed between the beam splitter and one of the first lens or second lens.

49. **(Original)** The optical beam splitting device of claim 48, wherein the device can be used as a beam combiner.

50. **(Original)** The optical beam splitting device of claim 48, wherein an isolation direction of the isolator can be switched to use the device as a beam combiner.

51. **(Currently Amended)** An optical beam combining device, comprising:

a second fiber coupling configured to hold a second lens and at least two fibers in a predetermined arrangement with respect to each other, the second lens being optically coupled to the at ~~last~~ least two fibers, wherein each of the at least two fibers is configured to propagate at least one of at least two components of light;

a beam combiner optically coupled to the second fiber coupling, wherein the beam combiner is configured to combine the at least two components of light into at least one beam of light;

~~an isolator optically coupled to the beam combiner; and~~

a first fiber coupling configured to hold a first lens and at least one additional optical fiber in a predetermined arrangement with respect to each other, the first lens being optically coupled to the ~~isolator~~ beam combiner and optically coupled to the at least one additional fiber, wherein the at least one additional fiber is configured to propagate the at least one beam of light; and

an isolator optically coupled to the beam combiner, wherein the isolator is disposed between the beam combiner and one of the first lens or second lens.

52. **(Original)** The optical beam combining device of claim 51, wherein the device can be used as a beam splitter.

53. **(Original)** The optical beam combining device of claim 51, wherein an isolation direction of the isolator can be switched to use the device as a beam splitter.

54. - 62. **(Canceled)**

63. **(New)** A method for processing light, the method comprising:
propagating a beam of light;
collimating or focusing the beam of light;
polarizing and rotating the collimated or focused beam of light;
splitting the polarized and rotated light into a plurality of components;
collimating or focusing the plurality of components; and
propagating the plurality of components.

64. **(New)** A method for processing light, the method comprising:
receiving a plurality of components of a beam of light;
collimating or focusing the plurality of components;
combining the plurality of components to form a beam of light;
rotating and polarizing the beam of light;
collimating or focusing the beam of light; and
propagating the collimated or focused beam of light.